(c) whether the general public faces undue hardship in getting the information within the stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the mechanism proposed to be developed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A study has been conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The study points out that there is inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

The Act provides for imposition of penalty on the public information officer in case of delay in supply of information in time. It ensures timely supply of information. The Government has issued various guidelines for different stakeholders which have enabled the information seekers to get information as per provisions of the Act.

Annual growth rates of States

†*293. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2259 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state:

(a) the details of annual growth rate of those States which are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic and social indices;

(b) the details of Central assistance given to these States under various legislations for correction of imbalance since year 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the names of sectors and growth rate achieved as a result of Central assistance, in comparison to the period between 1998-2003, and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The annual growth rates of states that are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic indicator (measured in terms of per capita income) and social indices (measured in terms of literacy rate and infant mortality rate) is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Annual Growth Rates of selected States (% over previous year)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Annual average growth rate
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	4.9	7.0	6.1	6.0
2.	Bihar	1.5	22.0	8.0	10.5
3.	Jharkhand	2.8	12.5	6.2	7.2
4.	Madhya Pradesh	6.5	4.8	5.2	5.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.9	8.0	8.6	7.9
6.	Orissa	6.4	12.1	5.9	8.1
7.	Rajasthan	6.7	7.8	7.1	7.2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	5.2	7.2	7.2	6.5
	ALL-INDIA GDP (99-00 base)	9.5	9.7	9.0	9.4

Note: Growth rates of states are measured by growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

(b) Central Assistance to states under various statues helps in removing regional imbalances. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been conceived under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The central assistance provided to different states under NREGS during the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The growth performance of states depends on a number of socio-economic factors such as investment, status of infrastructure, education and literacy, health indicators, central assistance, etc. These factors have a cumulative impact on the state level growth performance and it is not possible to disaggregate the impact of these factors on state level growth performance. As such, the contribution of central assistance alone to the achievement of growth rate cannot be quantified.

Statement

Central release under NREGS (Rs. crores)

States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1025.41	1371.05	3219.1

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	14.51	12.65	29.49
Assam	265.51	521.75	958.72
Bihar	548.31	467.08	1388.19
Chhattisgarh	718.51	1144.16	1664.49
Goa	—	1.14	6.18
Gujarat	74.34	59.16	164.19
Haryana	35.89	48.41	136.57
Himachal Pradesh	46.68	127.54	409.75
Jammu and Kashmir	41.36	70.71	104.73
Jharkhand	558.55	650.69	1805.80
Karnataka	248.51	252.98	398.51
Kerala	37.40	69.01	198.87
Madhya Pradesh	1909.44	2602.80	4061.12
Maharashtra	218.16	29.24	187.56
Manipur	16.93	61.84	365.41
Meghalaya	32.25	59.19	78.03
Mizoram	20.24	33.43	151.94
Nagaland	9.10	44.00	268.06
Orissa	783.80	536.96	878.44
Punjab	34.46	29.72	67.75
Rajasthan	780.41	1056.00	6521.57
Sikkim	6.92	6.30	40.97
Tamil Nadu	184.09	516.09	1401.27
Tripura	27.55	170.16	460.37
Uttar Pradesh	569.15	1665.90	3933.90
Uttarakhand	44.71	110.04	101.16
West Bengal	388.69	882.63	922.75
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	1.35	7.03
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	0.45	0.45

1	2	3	4
Daman and Diu	—	0.90	0.22
Lakshadweep	—	0.45	2.62
Puducherry	—	0.45.	4.19
Chandigarh	—	0.45	0.20
TOTAL	8640.86	12604.68	29939.6

CBI plan to complete investigations

*294. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI plans to complete investigations of all cases within one year from date of registration;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the number of cases that are pending as on 31 December, 2008 for investigation;

(d) whether CBI is creating a "Virtual Private Network" for web-based online investigations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The time taken to complete investigation of cases depends on the nature of cases, number of witnesses to be examined and number and type of documents to be scrutinized. Though it is the endeavor of CBI to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest no specific time frame can be prescribed for completion of investigation. There is a laid down system in the CBI of regularly reviewing the progress of cases under investigation with a view to finalize them early.

(c) As on December 31, 2008, 1005 cases were pending investigation in CBI.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 3.08 crores has been sanctioned during the year 2008-09 under the Plan Scheme of CBI e-Governance for setting up a Wide Area Network and other e-Governance applications for the CBI.

Report on labour and employment

*295. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in their Report on Labour and Employment, released during February, 2009, predicted that "worst hit would be the elderly in rural areas